STATE OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 are pending and at issue in the application with claims 1, 13, 14 and 18 being independent claims. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-15 and 18-23 and has objected to claims 7-9, 16 and 17.

REMARKS

By this Amendment A, the claims that were objected to by Examiner have now been rewritten in independent form. Specifically, claim1 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations found in original claim 7 and claim 14 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations found in original claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the cited prior art and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the new claims. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric H. Weimers

Registration No. 33,048

Attorney for Applicant

Date: October 7, 2003

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